

Severall Propositions tendered by the Corporation for the Imploying the Poor of the City of *London*, and Liberties.



Orasmuch as it is not simply the present suppression and setting to work of idle Vagrants and Beggars of all sorts, wherewith the Streets, Lanes, and severall parts of this City, have of late so much abounded, to the great scandall and dishonor thereof, that can throughly accomplish that hopefull Reformation in this kind that is desired and intended, except some effectuall course be taken for the prevention thereof for the future. And whereas also, that through the generall neglect of most places, poore children maintained by their respective parishes, and others are bred up like Atheists, after a sordid, loose, and undisciplined manner, care being had only for their present bodily provision; by meanes whereof, so much dissolutenesse, idlenesse, thefts, whoredomes, prophane cursing, swearing, and almost all kinds of wickednesse do generally abound in that sort of people, being indeed the most probable, if not certain consequences of such an education. And furthermore, whereas many Pensioners and others doe eat the bread of Idlenesse; some through an accustomed ocitanse, who can, but will not work; and others through an unavoidable necessity, who would, but cannot procure work: For the hopefull prevention of the inconveniencies aforesaid, the Corporation for the imploying of the Poor of the City of *London*, doe tender to the respective Parishes of the said City as followeth.

1. That the poor Children of this City, and Liberties thereof, from five years old and upward, who now are at home at the Parishes charge, be duly sent to the Worke-houses belonging to the Corporation, with provision for their Dinners with them, where they shall have meanes to learn as well to read and write, as to be instructed in such manufacturies as they shalbe capable of; Provided, they bring with them the Certificate of the Church-wardens or Overseers of the poore of their severall Parishes respectively.

2. That to this end they shal have two hours in every day allowed them to learn to read and write, with one houre at noon for their repast, and the rest of the day, from seven or eight of the clock in the morning, till five or six at night, to be spent in getting knowledge how to work in some manufactory that may be usefull to this Common-wealth.

3. That for the first quarter of the year (except the Children be grown up, or are more expert then ordinary) it cannot be expected that any thing should be given them but their Learning, in respect of that unavoidable losse which wil be sustained in the teaching them any manufactory whatsoever, through the waste that they will make. But after the first quarter, twelve pence per week shall be allowed to each Child for their work, and shalbe increased as they shall deserve, which together with what is allowed by the parish for their keeping and clothes, will be a competent maintenance for each respective Child.

4. That the Pensioners in the severall VVards, that are best able, may by turns weekly accompany the children to the Work-houses, one Pensioner to have the oversight of ten children, or their abouts, so as to bring them in the morning, and to return with them home at night; and the said Pensioners may likewise work upon such manufacturies as they are best skilled in, and bee paid according to their earnings.

5. That the Children who shalbe imployed by this Corporation, may each of them have a badg of the Corporation upon their sleeves.

6. That such Pensioners, or other poore as are aged, or that cannot come to the said VVork-houses, may have materialls to work upon home to their own houses, some of the Overseers of the Parish ingaging for the faithfull return of them when they are converted into manufactory, according to the tickets printed by order of the Corporation, and they likewise to be paid according to their earnings.

7. That for the stragling Poore, if they belong to any parish within this City, and the Liberties thereof, then from thence they must have allowance, and there have habitation, and be regulated as is before expressed concerning the Parish Children.

8. That when any of these children so regulated, and educated, shall become fit, through ripeness of age, or otherwise, they may be placed out apprenices in some useful trades for their future livelyhoods.

Towards the effectuall accomplishment of which work aforesaid, the said Corporation doubt not of the most ready concurrence and help of all pious and charitable hearts.

18 September, 1650.

Ordered at a Court held by the Corporation for the Poor of the City of *London* and Liberties, That these Propositions with the Preamble now read and voted, shalbe forthwith Printed, and dispersed to the Parishes of *LONDON*.

Signed by the appointment of the Corporation.

Per *Jo. Marsh*, Cler.